THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 200 February/March 2023

EDITORIAL

Spring is on our doorstep -after a very mixed winter weather -wise we can look ahead to lighter evenings and more chances to get out and about. We are fortunate to have open space within easy reach but we need to look after it!

Your Meridian reaches a milestone with this issue it is our 200th!! This could not have happened without the small team who put it all together, our deliverers, and all who advertise with us and contribute articles. so thank you. The printed word still has a place today despite social media - even if you lose your printed copy it is online too so you can look back over previous issues easily.

Deadline for April/May issue - 20 February

Look closely at your copy use it and enjoy it.

Editor

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MERIDIAN COMMITTEE

Editor:	April Martin	Tel: 01954 200533
Treasurer	David Gedny	Tel: 01954 231305
Production:	Alan Morris	Tel: 01954 202664
Advertising:	David Gedny/April Martin	Tel: 01954 231305 / 01954 200533
Distribution	Selwyn Richardson	Tel: 01954 202974
Subscriptions	Jan Waller	Tel: 01954 230795
Complaints	Maureen Hadfield	Tel: 01954 230414
Proofreading	Alison Lucas	Tel: 01954 232984
Website:	Alan Morris www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk	Tel: 01954 202664
Emails:	editor@swaveseymeridian.org.uk	
	adverts@swaveseymeridian.org.uk	
	webmaster@swaveseymeridian.org.uk	

Major Events List

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

Saturday 4 February	April Martin & Jack Stinton	Energise dance showcase 1 & 7pm at Swavesey Village College www.ticketsource.co.uk/swaveseyvc
Saturday 25 March	Camera Club	Photographic Exhibition - 10am - 4pm in the Memorial Hall
Wednesday 12 April	Parish Council	Annual Parish Meeting

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February		
Thursday 2	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Saturday 4	April Martin & Jack Stinton	Energise dance showcase 1 & 7pm at Swavesey Village College www.ticketsource.co.uk/swaveseyvc
	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 9	Parish Council	Planning Meeting
Thursday 16	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 23	Refuse Collection	Blue Bin Only
Monday 27	Parish Council	Full Council Meeting
March		
Thursday 2	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 9	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 9	Parish Council	Planning Meeting
Thursday 16	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 23	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Saturday 25	Camera Club	Photographic Exhibition - 10am - 4pm in the Memorial Hall
Monday 27	Parish Council	Full Council Meeting
Thursday 30	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
April		
Wednesday 12	Parish Council	Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 13	Parish Council	Planning Meeting
Monday 24	Parish Council	Full Council Meeting

Dear Advertisers

Due to increases in printing costs we have to raise prices from 1st February 2023.

Not only are prices of paper and ink rising but we also have a large number of new residents so we need to print more copies.

We want to continue with our policy of providing a free copy to every residence in the village and even at the higher prices this is for you an excellent way of letting everyone know about you and what you can provide in our community. Adjacent villages have stopped producing a magazine so Meridian is now the only printed magazine in the immediate area.

Yes there is Facebook but The Meridian can be easily kept to hand is quick to look through to find information and also goes online free of charge to you so it reaches a wider audience away from Swavesey, (plus not everybody has Facebook!)

The new prices are shown on page 70

Thank you for supporting The Meridian and the community.

Editor

DEADLINES DEADLINES

Sorry to keep on about this but it DOES matter! Unlike various social media sites we need time to produce your Meridian so it is the best we can make it and include future dates and events for you. The date we need articles etc in by is always published in advance and I then remind you all nearer the time. However despite my best efforts I still end up chasing articles! Does it matter "if I am few days late" YES IT DOES! We need to know how much space is needed so we can leave room for important late news, There are one or two organisations that we know will be late eg Parish Council but we keep space for this so it can be put in at the last minute.

As editor it is my unenviable job to chase all those who normally contribute and missed the deadline a job made harder by the fact that when you change personnel you forget to tell us - meaning a lot of phone calls emails etc. Please remember not everyone uses social media!!

Our magazine reaches issue number 200 with this issue - other local magazines have stopped for various reasons - we are proud to be able to still ensure your Meridian drops through your door every other month help us to keep it this way.

Editor

CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey WI News

At November's meeting,WI members welcomed Noreen Plows who demonstrated Christmas Wreath making. Noreen was very enthusiastic and informative. Besides giving demonstrations to groups she also runs Wreath making workshops from her home. She kindly offered the decorations she made to be raffled. Three lucky members went home very happy!

Members joined the Federation outing to Thursford in November to see the spectacular Christmas Show there. A show not to be missed.

Swavesey WI has been able to donate funds to three local causes this year.

They being.:-

- Swavesey Surgery.
  The surgery is needing to automate the entrance door to help with accessibility.
- Local Food Bank.
- Cambridge Womens Refuge.

December festivities began with a very friendly Festive Coffee Morning at our County Office in Girton. Several of our members attended and enjoyed mulled wine and festive food together with members from around the county.

On December 8th our Institute enjoyed a super Christmas meal at Cambridge Regional College Restaurant. All the catering was prepared and served by students who study there.

More fun was enjoyed on December 12th, when we all had a great time at our Christmas Party held in the Memorial Hall organised by our WI committee. The Hall was decorated, a cheese buffet served, a raffle and games organised and to top it all we tapped our feet, sang along and danced to "Agnatha" our ABBA tribute singer who entertained us so well and really provided a good time for all. Members went home singing!

We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and thank you for your support.

If you would like to know more about Swavesey WI, please contact:-

Margaret Guest 01954 202757/Deirdre Burgess 01954 230897.

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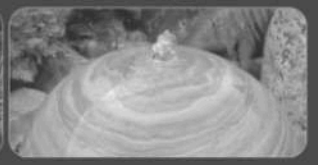

IT CAN ONLY GET BETTER.

Our magazine deadline is many weeks before publication; at the time of writing the village is deep in snow, ice everywhere, pavements treacherous, outside thermometers reading astonishingly low temperatures. We are entitled to moan and complain at times like this but at least for us in a camera club we have some reason for cheer. Our gardens have been transformed by the freezing fog, delicate frozen cobwebs, leaves rimmed with frost, tree branches laden and flocks of birds tucking into our berries.

By the time this drops through your letterbox it is to be hoped we are out and about photographing emerging Spring flowers, but as our programme for February and March has far more competitions than usual, all these new images stored in our files should give us plenty to choose from. We have two friendly outside competitions in February: the first at home on the 9th against Ely, and the second away at St Neots on Tuesday 21st. In addition to our usual star members we have several newcomers who have been extremely successful in recent club competitions, so we are confident we will at least put up a good show.

Our next internal club competition is the very hard fought Print Panel, 5 images judged together as one, this is on March 2nd. There will be an Advisory zoom meeting prior to that on Feb 16th to help in choosing and setting up the panels, far more challenging than one would imagine. There will be another Advisory zoom meeting on March 14th before our last Set Subject of the year, Abstract, on the 30th .The other two Set Subject competitions had some interesting and stunning images, and this promises to be a real challenge.

Of course, our club isn't just about competing against the others, it is about sharing one's love of photography, and members are always happy to help the less experienced among us. We have two Members' nights, the first on 2nd Feb. the other on March 23rd when once again the more experienced photographers will show us their work, anything from a video show to generously shared advice on technical matters. The details will be announced closer to the night. We also have a workshop on 9th March, when we split up into groups for different topics lead by those more technically able.

Only two outside lectures this time, one on Zoom from Wales, on Feb.23rd given by Gareth Martin, a member of Afan Nedd Camera Club. It is titled 'In The Making', not sure what that will bring us but his website has some brilliant photographs. The other is another technical talk, 'The Photoshop Workflow'. This is on 16th March, back in the College.

By this time we should all be top notch experts in every aspect of photography, very convenient, as our Annual Exhibition will be held in Swavesey Memorial Hall on March 25th, when you can see the results for yourselves, (and have a coffee and cake too). This is slightly earlier than in other years, so do keep an eye on notices about the Open Competitions and how to submit your entries. Details can be found on our website, which will also give details of coming along to any of our meetings as a visitor for a small fee.

Mo Hadfield
Swavesey Camera Club.
www.swavesey camera club.co.uk

FEN DRAYTON BOWLS CLUB

With winter still bearing down on us and the days somewhat overcast and cold, have you thought about some afternoon/ evening exercise in the warmth of Fen Drayton Village Hall playing short mat bowls?

You might say what is short mat bowls - well it's similar to lawn bowls but played indoors in a warm environment on a carpet 22 yards long. You don't need to have played before - just come along as there are plenty of members willing to provide help and assistance. The Club can also provide necessary equipment.

Everyone is welcome and our membership ranges from juniors to retired people and from novices to experienced players. Our friendly club is ideal for beginners. Many members come from surrounding villages but currently only two Swavesey residents are members and we would keenly like to have more.

We have roll up sessions on Monday afternoons from 2pm throughout the year and Monday and Friday evenings from 6.30pm each week between September and April. The Club also has a team entered in the Cambridgeshire Short Mat Bowls Association League and these fixtures are usually played on Sunday afternoons.

On completion of the indoor season and with spring upon us we turn our attention to Lawn Bowls and if you wish to continue a little gentle exercise during the summer evenings this might be for you. Roll up sessions are on Mondays and Fridays from 6.00pm

If you would like to give it a go, please come along to any of the Club roll up sessions. You will be most welcome.

The Fen Drayton Village Hall is located on Cootes Lane, CB24 4SL.

If you want more information please contact Mike Gillett, Club Secretary, on 01480 385297 or email to michael.gillett1@ntlworld.com.

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Swavesey & District History Society

November meeting. Charles Dickens remarked, "Bury St Edmunds is a handsome little town" and Adrian Tindall, speaking to 35 members, used many images of the abbey and important town buildings to illustrate this. The earliest settlement in Bury St Edmunds dates back to around 400 AD but not until about 630 AD does the first documentary evidence mention a settlement of King Sigebert on the river Lark. There were frequent invasions by the Vikings, and when Anglo-Saxon King Edmund led his troops against them in 869 AD his forces were defeated and he was martyred for refusing to renounce his Christian faith. His remains were placed in a shrine and in 1020 King Canute established a Benedictine abbey to house the shrine. The abbey was one of the largest churches in Europe, its footprint covering 10 ha (25 acres). His shrine attracted many thousands of pilgrims from all over Europe, bringing vast wealth to the abbey and also helping the town to flourish. But conflict between the abbey and town led to riots, rebellions and even massacres. On a tall pillar alongside the end of the abbey church a plaque commemorates the spot where, in 1214, the barons of England met to agree the terms of a contract to be put to King John, now known as the Magna Carta.

The dissolution of the monasteries destroyed the abbey in 1539 but left many ruins of a great church. After the destruction much of Bury's wealth came from the wool trade although the town is rich in architecture from every era since Norman times. Our attention was drawn to, among others, the Grade 1 Theatre Royal, a restored 1819 Regency theatre, the Grade 1 Corn Exchange which opened for business in 1862 and quickly became one of the busiest in the country, the famous Nutshell pub which has a maximum permitted capacity of 15 customers, Moyse's Hall, built in around 1180, the Greene King Brewery Visitor Centre and The Athenaeum, originally built in the 18th century as Assembly Rooms and where Charles Dickens gave several readings from his works. Dickens stayed in the nearby Angel Hotel in 1859 and 1861 and his first novel, The Pickwick Papers, immortalises the town and specifically mentions the Angel Hotel.

December meeting. On a dreadfully cold, frosty evening with icy roads everywhere, about 20 hardy souls turned out for the AGM. After the formal proceedings there were five very varied, short presentations, each of which was excellent:-

Roger Hetherington (Over) reported on a new heritage centre to be set up at Northstowe. The small site is funded by Cambs County Council and will be ready for use by Easter 2023. As well as being a repository of finds from the A14 upgrade it will house local heritage collections, including items/documents from Over and Swavesey, to form a regional centre for the south-western Fen Edge heritage.

Carole Pook, (Swavesey) showed 3 of her father's possessions from the 1950s connected with his senior management post with W J Bush (later Bush Boake Allen) who produced fragrance, aroma and flavour chemicals. The first, a container, was delivered to him in the late '50s by two burly men from the Bulgarian embassy, containing rose oil worth about £3,000 at the time. The second was a glass bottle

around 15 cm tall which he made, containing an early aerosol dispenser. The filler was a fluorocarbon so this device was possibly initially responsible for the hole in the ozone layer. Even smaller was a pipette of grains from the wrappings around Tutankhamun's body and he was asked to identify the perfumes in the grains

Richard Hart (Swavesey) had recently discovered over 40 glass slides from around 1905, wrapped in brown paper in his mother's belongings. She had not unwrapped them since inheriting them from Richard's grandma, Dorian, in the 1950s. Now able to be viewed on modern equipment, they are high quality photos of his ancestors showing the family, notably Dorian, at the seaside, at home, at a farm and in the country. Many pretty hats were worn by the ladies and young girls.

Julie Carter (Over) spoke of her father, Frank Cruickshank, a Scottish professional footballer who played at full back. Born in Polmont, near Falkirk, in 1931 he first played for Burnley then Nuneaton, Notts County for a long period, Cheltenham Town then, from 1961, as player-manager for Cambridge City. 1963 was a particularly successful year.

Linda and Colin Saunders (Swavesey) read out entries from Samuel Pepys' diary. Born in 1633, he kept his detailed diary from 1660 to 1669, stopping because he wrongly thought he was going blind. During this time there were many notable events in England including the plague of 1665, the Great Fire of London and Charles II's coronation. He studied at Magdalen College in Cambridge.

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MISCELLANY

Warren Wright Memories

Needless to say moving to the centre of the village opened up new groups of friends with whom I could meet more frequently, one result of which was there where about half a dozen of us who enjoyed fishing & camping. So it wasn't long before we would take the tents and set up a mini camp by the Ouse just down stream from the Covell's drain gates for about 4 or 5 days, fishing late night & early hours and swimming during the daytime. We used to light a smallish camp fire which would last for hours on end when layers of dried cow dung were placed on the top - this was sometimes used as a barbie.

The river bank just up stream from Covell's drain was far better for swimming as we could also dive in on account of the increased depth of water. In those times the rivers were in the hands of the National Rivers Authority and there was a dredger which regularly operated between St.Ives & Over staunch which used to keep the waters flowing and the banks maintained. Sadly the Environment Agency have been in control for many years now & would not even consider any such action - heaven forbid, they might even trap a one eared mollusc in the process, as if any living creature will hang around with the noise & vibration emitted by a working dredger!, and I promised not to mention the Somerset levels. On one occasion we found a rather dilapidated punt in the reeds upstream, which we pulled out and used several times, each time having to hide it back in the reeds with a few tubs of water therein when we had finished for the day.

So there we were at the start of the 60's, what an age to have grown up in with so many things going on for the younger generation who I understand are now labelled as the "Baby boomers". Going to school in Cambridge opened up contacts with fellow students from all round the County and in fact the Country to a degree, as the City attracted people from all round the world with many of them having younger family needing education.

"Butlins by the Sea", Billy Butlin had opened a range of holiday camps around the UK which provided all inclusive holidays with cabin accommodation and various forms of entertainment based on a "walk in" entrance with your camp card. Some of these camps were old prisoner of war camps which were re-vitalised in the late 40's & 50's. One of these sites was situated on the coast just north of Skegness and we went there on family holidays on at least 3 occasions, travelling by coach. The camp had it's own fun fair with all rides free of additional charges - never a dull moment for us youngsters. I remember going into the large entertainment site theatre on a couple of occasions to see the bands, one of whom was in fact Liverpool based Rory Storm & the Hurricanes who had, at the time, a drummer named Richard Starkey who, a couple of months later had become BINGO no, Ringo Starr, who had then joined an upcoming band known as "The Beatles". All

the camps were well known for the staff members who were known as the "Redcoats" who were always on hand to solve any problems or queries that clients may have had, many of these people moved on to earn a living in the entertainment world.

At the time we started travelling by train to & from school the railways were undergoing the change of engines from steam power to diesel engines and we could never be sure what form of engine was powering the morning train though there was almost always one of the new diesel units for the return journey which left Cambridge at 4 o'clock or thereabouts.

Very cold winter weather caused problems with the morning trains, especially the winter of '62/'63 when the temperature did not get above freezing for some 5 weeks or more. It was cold enough to even freeze some parts of the UK's shallow coastal waters and cars could be seen driving along the river Cam in Cambridge & on the Great Ouse between St. Ives & Overcoat and probably many other waterways in the country. Our morning journey to school was affected on many occasions when we were scheduled a diesel engine, but the fuel had frozen, so a steam train had to be used and of course you can't just push a button to start the steam engines. Subsequently there were a few incidents when the morning school train did not arrive at Swavesey station until well after 9 o'clock by which time we should have been in class. Needless to say we County boys decided it would of course be far too dangerous for us to take the short cuts through the goods marshalling yards to Hills Road bridge, so we all walked to the top of Station Rd. before then turning left towards Hills Rd bridge and eventually getting into the classroom between 10:00 & 11:00am - "So sorry Sir but the train was late, and we don't have bus passes ! "

This extreme weather period also brought a national event to the village when the British outdoor speed skating championships were held on Mere Fen, which had been flooded due to the river overflow and excessive rain prior to the major new year freeze. I think our fen may have been used for this type of event before as apparently it was, and probably still is, one of the few outdoor locations where a lap of 1 mile could be accessed with just one turn!. Many people were using the traditional fen runner skates but obviously all of the serious contenders were using Norwegian skate blades which were considerably longer. I was lucky enough to be able to use my Dad's Norwegian blades, not that I did any racing but it was fun just to skate round the fen area. The water must have been frozen right down to the ground as the number of people walking and of course skating on it was substantial to say the least and I couldn't remember any breaks in the ice. One thing that really sticks in my mind was that on the special competition days Ray Oakman, who ran the village fish & chip shop - now by the rear gated entrance to the White Horse, was selling his produce to clients on the ice on Mere fen. It may seem relatively easy with today's available technology but we are talking 60 years ago! However Ray had used his initiative and transported a small box freezer on to the site and brought the heated bags of the produce up to be temporarily stored therein. I'm not sure how the inside of the freezer was initially heated but with the heavy internal insulation therein the bagged fish & chips maintained a satisfactory edible temperature..

Swavesey 100 Years ago (Feb & March 1923)
From the Cambridge Chronicle

BOYS' F.C. 2nd Feb. 1923
The Swavesey Sunday School Boys' Football Club has been disbanded, and, after payment of expenses, etc., the balance in hand from subscriptions has been distributed amongst the members, each of whom has received 1s. 2d.

THE PUBLIC DRAINS. 9th Feb. 1923
Dr. H. T. Calvert, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, who was accompanied by Dr. F. Robinson (County Medical Office) and Dr. R. Grove (District Medical Officer of Health) on Friday, made an exhaustive inspection of the sanitary arrangements of the new Council houses and of the open public drains from Middle Watch to the Church Bridge. Messrs. F. Kirby, R. Norman and C. Wood (District Councillors), F. G. Reynolds (Sanitary Inspector), and F. Hagger (District Surveyor) were also present.

DARK STREETS 2nd March 1923
Several mishaps, none, fortunately, attended with serious consequences, have recently occurred in the dark streets and lanes of the village. The following instances may be cited: A lad walking home collided with the rain-water pipe of a shed in Wallman's-lane, and was knocked down dazed into the mud, injuring his knee, cutting his nose, and grazing his face. Papers he was carrying were damaged with mud and water. On the same evening a fish merchant, riding a cycle, had a spill, apparently through colliding with something in the gloom. On Friday night an old inhabitant completely lost his bearings on a road with which he was well acquainted and had to wait until another parishioner came along who could put him in the way he should go. A lady, after visiting a sick relation, struck her head against a brick gate post when trying to effect an entrance to her own premises. She sustained a black eye. Passengers alighting at the railway station from the brightly illuminated L. and N.E.R. carriages experience difficulty in finding their way along the tree-lined road into the village, and it is suggested that a lamp near Swan Pond, or at the main churchyard gate, would act as a beacon towards which pedestrians could make their way.

BREAD. 9th March 1923
The retail price of bread in Swavesey was reduced to 4d. per 2lb. loaf on Monday.

THE CUCKOO. 16th March 1923
A local railway official reports that he heard the cuckoo in Mow Fen at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday, and he indignantly repudiates the suggestion that the bird he heard was an adjunct of a clock in a house in the neighbourhood.

HOCKEY. 16th March 1923
The Swavesey mixed hockey team entertained Cambridge Town mixed eleven on Saturday. The game was very fast, both teams playing up well. At the interval the score stood 2 – 1 in favour of Swavesey, but during the second half the Town scored twice and the game ended in a win for the visitors by four goals to three. H. Topham (2) and J. H. Johnson scored for Swavesey.

Over Day Centre - Some Events for 2023

To help the Over Day Centre raise £50,000 towards solar panels and solar-powered bathing for clients, amongst other events, the Day Centre is planning to hold again in 2023 two very popular days :

The 5-pub Challenge and The Bike Rides

Sunday 14th May Sunday 25th June

We hope the 5-pubs, 12 mile walk, will have a choice of stops at the usual watering-holes of Pike & Eel, Needingworth; The Ferryboat, Holywell; The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton; The White Swan, Swavesey; and the Community Centre, Over.

The Bike Rides will again have a choice of fully route-marked rides, planned by Willingham Wheels and Swavesey & Over Cycling Club. You will be able to choose from 100km, 50km and family routes through local countryside and villages. Afterwards you will be welcome to join us for an after-ride social at the Community Centre, Over.

Willingham Wheels are also organising a 'Sofa-to-50k', 8-week training programme, for novice riders to gradually increase their distance, culminating in the 50k ride. For details, please contact Nigel at sofa250k@outlook.com.

Further details will be published soon but in the meantime please add the two event dates to your diaries.

An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

This issue's article is about the strange world of fungi. Many people think fungi only appear in the autumn but in fact various species can be poking out of the ground or wood all year round. The keen mycologist (the term for someone who studies fungi) always knows to keep their eyes on the ground where they might chance upon an exciting find.

Fungi have perplexed scientists for generations. They were once thought to be related to plants but in fact are more evolutionarily related to animals. Nowadays they are granted their own kingdom in the web of life. The variety of species is simply enormous, and it can take many years to fully document the breadth of species which can occur on a site such as Fen Drayton Lakes. Hundreds, if not thousands, of fungi species occur here and we have only scratched the surface of what can be found so far.

Bracket fungi are one of the easiest groups to spot. Favouring obvious locations on trunks of trees or stumps. They are frequent in the countryside and include species with enticing names like the juicy red Beefsteak, and Chicken-of-the-Woods, a bright yellow-orange bracket which grows in tiers.

One which many visitors might see at the reserve is the Candlesnuff, also known as the Stag's Horn. It has tiny stick-like structures which branch at the top and turn from black to white. It grows out of logs and stumps which are rotting down.

A recent find on the reserve was of several Parasol Mushrooms, which were the size of dinner plates. It is easy to see how this species gets its name with the slender stem and umbrella shaped cap. They are always a crowd-pleaser.

Fungi do several incredibly important jobs in nature. The first is that some help trees access nutrients which significantly improves tree health and growth. They also help to rot down leaves, twigs, logs and stumps which contributes towards producing soils. Finally, a small number cause tree decay which is an important process in

The Parasol mushroom – a sizeable species which can be found at Fen Drayton Lakes

woodland and creates dead wood which many insect species require.

Back to the birds, and now it is winter, a cold snap could see the arrival of large numbers of ducks and waders to the area. In previous winters the reserve has hosted a small number of Smew. A scarce duck from the continent with the drakes dressed in a pure white feathering with black stripes and a black face patch. Search for this duck on Ferry and Drayton Lakes in particular.

If you would like to join the 1.2 million RSPB members to help protect wildlife and the special places it lives, or would like to find out more about membership, please take a look on our website at:
www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/join-us/

Wednesday Wander

If you are interested in finding out more about the wildlife you can find here, as well as the work we are doing to create and maintain valuable habitats, why not join one of our monthly 'Wednesday Wander' guided walks? These volunteer-led walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday, stopping to take in the seasonal highlights. To see details and book, please visit:
www.events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes
Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk
Phone: 01954 233260

Visit rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

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For further information;-
see our web site www.swavesey.org.uk/village-links/swavesey-library,
Facebook at Swavesey Village Life or contact
Richard at Richard94.hart@virgin.net / 01954 202707 or
Doug at Doughuntuk@yahoo.co.uk / 01954 232478.

It Will Probably Be Cloudy…

A guide to the night sky over Swavesey during February and March.

The full moon on 5th February was known by early Native American tribes as the Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Hunger Moon, since the harsh weather made hunting difficult.

As soon as the sun drops below the southwestern horizon on 22nd February, look for a waxing crescent moon snuggling up to the king of the planets, Jupiter. Brilliant Venus will be positioned a little beneath in the sky, vying for attention. The two celestial bodies will put on an amazing show as they appear to brush past each other only one degree apart.

If you follow the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter during early 2023, you will notice that they slowly converge in the southwestern sky. On the evening of 1st March, these superbright worlds will make their closest approach to each other, passing within half a degree—close enough to see the disks of both clearly in the same field of view.

The full moon on 7th March was known by early Native American tribes as the Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear. This moon has also been known as the Crow Moon, the Crust Moon, the Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon.

The March equinox occurs on 20th March. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox).

Very prominent all year round in the northern night sky is the constellation Cassiopeia. Nicknamed the W constellation, Cassiopeia is easily recognizable for the prominent W asterism formed by its five brightest stars. The constellation was first catalogued by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy in the 2nd century.

Cassiopeia contains several notable deep sky objects, among them the open clusters Messier 52 and Messier 103, the Heart Nebula and the Soul Nebula, the supernova remnant Cassiopeia A, the star-forming cloud popularly known as the Pacman Nebula, the White Rose Cluster, and the magnitude 8.8 star Lewis Craig Mannion which can be found at RA 1hr, Dec 64 degrees.

In mythology, Cassiopeia was the wife of King Cepheus of Ethiopia. Once, she boasted that she was more beautiful than the Nereids. The Nereids were the 50 sea nymphs fathered by the Titan Nereus. They were enraged by Cassiopeia's comments and appealed to Poseidon to punish Cassiopeia for her boastfulness. Poseidon was married to one of the nymphs, Amphitrite.

The sea god obliged and sent Cetus, a sea monster represented by the constellation Cetus (the Whale), located in the same region of the sky, to ravage the coast of Cepheus' kingdom. Cepheus turned to an oracle for help and the oracle told him that, in order to appease Poseidon, he and Cassiopeia had to sacrifice their daughter Andromeda to the sea monster. Reluctantly, they did so, leaving Andromeda chained to a rock for the monster to find. However, she was saved at the last minute by the Greek hero Perseus, who happened to be passing by, saw Andromeda and rescued her from the monster.

Perseus and Andromeda were later married. At the wedding, one of her former suitors Phineus appeared, and claimed that he was the only one who had the right to marry Andromeda.

There was a fight and Perseus, desperately outnumbered, used the head of Medusa to defeat his opponents. One look at Medusa's head turned them all into stone. In the process, however, the king and queen also met their end because they did not look away from the monster's head in time.

It was Poseidon who placed Cassiopeia and Cepheus in the sky. Cassiopeia, the myth goes, was condemned to circle the celestial pole forever, and spends half the year upside down in the sky as punishment for her vanity. She is usually depicted on her throne, still combing her hair.

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A Glance at the Past in February and March

From the Cambridge Chronicle

1854, 25 Mar. Vestry Meeting. An unusual vestry meeting was held last Thursday to consider repairs to the Parish Church and the propriety of obtaining a loan of the necessary amount from The Exchequer Loan Commissioners. The affair caused great excitement and the proposition was firmly opposed by the Dissenters.

1855, 3 Feb. Inquest. This was held on William Cain. The deceased lived alone and a neighbour, on hearing him moaning went in and found him very ill. She gave him some hot gin and water and sent for the doctor who diagnosed heart disease. Cain died 5 minutes later. Verdict Natural Causes.

1856, 23 Feb. Drainage Meeting. Held at The White Horse by owners and occupiers of land. Resolved that a committee ascertain the number of acres which need draining, the several lengths of leading drains, & cost of a steam engine. To report on 12 March.

1865, 25 Mar. Fire. On Sunday 19th inst. Between 4 and 5, a fire broke out at the house occupied by a family called Dodson. It rapidly spread to the adjoining house occupied by the family, Ely. Both houses were destroyed but use of the parish engine prevented further destruction.

1868, 1 Feb. Missionary Service. Held in St Andrew's Church. The sermon given by the Lord Bishop of Honolulu. Collection for the Propagation of Gospel in Foreign Parts.

1888, 3 Feb. Primrose League. Thornhill Habitation (Swavesey). Monthly meeting, when Dr Ellis gave a talk on the proposed alterations to the County boundaries in the Local Government Bill and urged that a petition should be signed against the changes as this would greatly interfere with ecclesiastical, petty sessional, highway and political arrangements. Petition signed by the parishioners of Swavesey, Over, Conington, Boxworth and Lolworth ratepayers, that these parishes should not be severed from the County of Cambridgeshire.

1893, 3 Feb. Concert. Held in the National School on 24th Jan. in aid of the church organ fund. A large audience enjoyed the first half which was devoted to vocal and instrumental recitals and the second half in which a play entitled "The three wishes" was performed.

1893, 17 Feb. Hay Factor's Failure. The summary of the statement of Charles Crisp showed a deficiency of £42-7s-11d. The debtor blamed the inferior quality of the hay which he'd bought.

1896, 14 Feb. Fire. Large straw stack and two haystacks burnt down in a field on Drayton Road, property of Mr Ezra Day. Supposed incendiary. The hay was insured.

1896, 14 Feb. Fatal Accident. the son of Mr. Hawkes, brewer, was buried in the Churchyard. The boy was knocked down and killed by a train whilst walking along the line to St. Ives Grammar School. There was much sympathy for the parents and family. P. C. Kitchen rendered good service by keeping good order among the attendance of 300 mourners.

1898, 4 Feb. Continuing Debate. The adjourned debate "Poverty, its causes, moral and physical effects" was again the subject. Mr Jesse Hepher again opened the discussion and was followed by H Beaumont, A Wilson, W Hepher. E Williams, J Taylor, Mr H.S.Alred (Secretary) present.

1898, 11 Feb. Mutual Improvement Society. Social evening on Tuesday. Mr Aldred presided. Songs & recitations. H Beaumont, J Hepher, A Wilson, P Beaumont, W Hepher, C Taylor, F Clark, L Hepher, H Clark and the Chairman.

1898, 18 Feb. Musical Evening. Held by Mutual Improvement Soc on Tuesday. The piano accompaniment by Mr Beaumont.

1898, 25 Feb. Vicar's Tea. Given on Wed 16th inst. to the Mother's Meeting. On the next day to the Women's Guild & Girl's Friendly Society. Sunday and Day School teachers were entertained at school by the Vicar and his wife.

1898, 11 Mar. Seaman's Life. Mr. James Dean gave a talk on Tuesday evening at the Mutual Improvement Society. Mr. Dean's personal experience of life on the ocean waves, which included catching sharks, mutiny aboard ship, and adventure on a desert island.

1899, 10 Feb. Concert. Held in schoolroom, in aid of Church Tower Repair Fund on Thursday on the 2nd inst. Performers Messrs Broxholme & Cohen of Trinity College, Mr White of Caius, and Williams, Rutter & Moyle Cooper of Queens College.

Swavesey Roads - Wordsearch

W U M F C H E Q U E R S C O U R T O E M W I L O K
H S R Y O F D P B Y R T F H A J N L X D R S S S R
I N M J N L L Q U A F G T D G I D W J U F C Q T N
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W A L L M A N S L A N E X O C N R J D A P V R P X
S M C A R T E R S W A Y U P H J T F Y F P J P U C

Pine Grove Park
Thistle Green
Wallmans Lane
School Lane
Moat Way
Chequers Court
Market Street
Folly Road
Home Close
Gibraltar Lane
Ramper Road
Whitton Close
Swan Court
Barwell Close
Carters Way
Boxworth End
Hale Road

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All are welcome on Thursdays
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At Bethel Baptist Church

Our cakes are home-made,
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our tea bags are plastic-free.

Priced to be affordable:
Tea/coffee/hot chocolate £1 per mug
and Cakes £1.50 per large slice
Squash is free

Please use the side door to enter, the far side door has a ramp for wheelchair users and pushchairs, and there is a carpet and toys for pre-school age customers.

Compass Café is run as a community event, a place to meet and chat. Your hosts are a group from one of:
Bethel Baptist Church, Swavesey Women's Institute,
St Andrew's Church, Girlguiding Units in Swavesey
and Swavesey Primary School PTA.

When there is a 5th Thursday in the month other groups are invited to run the café to fundraise.
Please get in touch with Sue Ellington
if you would like to know more.
sue.ellington@virgin.net or phone 01954 202923

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Selwyn's diabolical puzzle on book titles. Part 6.

Each clue below leads to the title of a well-known book. All the books come under the category of fiction, so do not look for Roget's Thesaurus or A Brief History of Time etc. General knowledge, a mildly cryptic approach and Google™ should provide most of the answers.

Served up pork pies with no strings attached (9)

Adam backs me, Britain's foremost egg producer (6, 6)

Take in smooth, core values of infamous, lazy sponsor (8, 3, 7)

Cried hysterically after comedian Henry made tea with Lee (5, 4. 5)

Indulge mistake, to an extent involving Bishop (5, 6)

Throngs swirl about the lifeboat service (8, 6)

In flouncy hat, I lolloped about (6)

Employee slips, lands badly (7, 6)

The period when church was embraced by state (3, 4, 7)

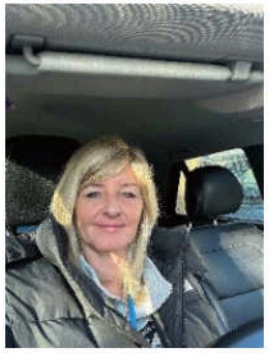
Chase Ronnie, possibly, then go bad (very bad) – excuse annoyance (5, 6, 3, 3, 6, 2, 4)

You will find the answers to this puzzle on page 35.

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Swavesey Community Warden Scheme.
Stepping into Spring.

At last, it is springtime, and we can start looking forward to lighter nights and warmer days! At this time of year many people start thinking about repairs that may need doing in their homes, or a good spring clean. If you are 60 or over and need some help with this your Age UK Community Warden Tracey Booth can help. As well as providing daily phone calls and weekly visits, the Community Warden Scheme can help you find reputable tradespeople and reliable domestic help, we can make enquiries and phone calls on your behalf, get quotes and book appointments.

Now the weather is improving you may also be thinking about getting out and about more. The Warden scheme can help make this easier for you too. We can assist you with applying for or renewing your bus pass or applying for a blue badge. We can put you in touch with volunteer driver schemes and community car schemes to help you attend essential appointments more easily. Maybe you're thinking about taking up a new hobby or joining a social club, we can help you find groups you may enjoy, and arrange transport to them, we'll even go with you the first couple of times to help you break the ice and settle in.



These are just a few examples of how the Community Warden Scheme can help you get the most out of things. If you are interested in learning more about the Scheme or signing up for a 2-week free trial, please call Tracey Booth on **07436 102736**.

Legacies - Support Our Future

President: Dr S G P Webster MA, MD, FRCP

Chairman: Hazel Williams MBE Vice Chairman: Clive Adkin Hon.
Treasurer: David E Bruch FCA
Chief Executive: Melanie Wicklen

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity no. 1165856
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Information & updates on facebook page

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Out of hours 111
Website:- www.oversurgery.nhs.uk
Information & updates on facebook page

Longstanton
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Out of hours 111
Website:-www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Bar Hill Surgery
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Out of hours (01954) 780442 -
call will automatically be diverted
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Fenstanton
7E High Street, Fenstanton
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Out of hours111

Website:-www.riverportmedicalpractice.co.uk

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SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Swavesey Primary School Early Years and Playwork Centre

Wraparound Care and Early Years Provision - Mon to Fri - term-time

Registration Fee £15 per family for using Breakfast and/or After School Club

Breakfast Club 7.30 am - 8.55 am
3+ year olds to Year 6 children: £6 per child per session

After School Club 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm
For Reception to Year 6 children: £12 per child, family rate £11 per child

Early Years 9.00 am to 3.00 pm (full day) or morning (9-12/1) or afternoon (12-3)
For 2½ year olds to 4 year olds

Places for funded children up to 30 hours per week

Charged sessions:-
3+ year olds £15 half-day and £30 full-day.
2 years and 6 months £17 AM only
£5 for lunch hour (12-1)

For more information and to register:-
https://www.swavesey.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=EY+%26amp%3B+P&pid=59

9.30 am – 10.15 am
Music Theory classes for ALL
10.15 am – 11.00 am
Little Rockets for 3-9 yrs
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Swavesey Music School
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
The BIG Rock School for Drummers, vocalists or guitarists with some experience or have been playing for some time aged 10 yrs+
10.15 am – 11:00 am
The BIG Sing!
(aka Choir/Sing up – 7 – 77yrs! ALL AGES)
11am – 12pm
The BIG Orchestra!
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Swavesey Village College CB24 4RS

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Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

We need a unit helper or assistant leader at 1st Swavesey Guides

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/ways-of-volunteering/

Wellies and Wristbands

Lara, one of our leaders, volunteered at the Guiding Festival in the summer, named Wellies and Wristbands. The camp takes place over a long weekend in two locations (one in the north of England and one in the south) so thousands of Guides, Rangers, and leaders came from all over the UK to have their own festival. There were lots of different activities for the girls to take part in, including water activities, an escape room, and fun events taking place throughout the day. Evenings were even busier, with live music acts and plenty of food stalls. As a volunteer, Lara travelled to the site the day before the girls arrived to help over 100 other volunteers to finalise setting everything up. She was on the Pamper Team, which was a more chilled zone in the festival, allowing girls to sit and chat whilst painting their nails or getting glitter tattoos or using hair chalk (Lara was covered in glitter by the end of each day). After her shift ended, Lara was able to sit and chill with some of the other volunteers.

"It was an exhausting weekend but so much fun and I've made friends that I'll have for life - we actually met a few weeks later at another Guiding camp! Volunteering at camps and other events is a wonderful experience and I would completely recommend it." - *Lara*

The Pantomime

Guiding in Swavesey and Guiding in Over go to see a pantomime for Christmas every year and this year was no different. Earlier in December, over 80 girls and leaders piled onto a coach and travelled to The Maltings theatre in Ely to see Cinderella. It was a wonderful performance, enjoyed by all, and we even got our own shout out. There was a lot of laughter and even some excellent dancing from the Guides!

Rainbows and Brownies are full with waiting lists, sign your daughters up early for Rainbows, don't wait until she is 5 and her friends have started!
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Scouts
1st Swavesey

1st Swavesey Scout Group

At Christmas Jim Burling, who had held the role of Group Scout Leader, stood down. Jim became involved in the Scout Group 9 years ago when he started helping at cubs. He then became Cub Leader before helping restart the Scout Troop. He took on the role of Group Scout Leader in 2018 when Linda Mayer stepped down. The Group Scout Leader is responsible for what happens in the Scout Group as a whole. They act as the manager of all of the other leaders.

We would like to put on record our thanks to Jim for his work in getting the Scout Hut updated and modernised over the last few years. It is a much warmer and easier to use space now. The outside lights down the side of the hut have made it possible to do some activities outside during these winter months.

Thank you, Jim, for all of the hard work you've done with the Scout group over the last 9 years. We wish you and your family well in the future.

Also stepping down from our Scouting family is Lisa Boyes. She has since stepping down as a Cub Leader in 2018, been the chair of our Scout Group Executive. This committee acts as the charity trustees. They make sure that what the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts do is meeting the aims of the Scouting philosophy and ensure our hut is fit for purpose. She took the decision to hand the reins over to a new person due to her time commitments. Thank you, Lisa, for all you've done over the many years for 1st Swavesey Scout Group.

I hope by the time you are reading this we've got a new chair of our group executive. In any case we are always willing to accept new volunteers to this committee. Please email one of the leaders below for more information.

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 4 Beavers who have achieved their Chief Scout's Bronze Award. They are Oliver Braybrook, Ganseng Menon, Henry Bush and Fred Palmer. Well done to them all.

Although the numbers of Scouts and Beavers is very good; the number of Cubs could be better. There is definitely space in Cubs for another 6 or 7 girls or boys. Scouting is open to all. This is reflected not just in all our groups but also in the mix of leaders. Every section has both female and male leaders. We are always open to children trying out Scouting. Our main scouting aim is to help all develop skills for future life.

If your girl or boy would like to try Cubs please email Steven below.

Also it's never too early to get your child on the waiting list for Beavers (we have had several children on the list from before their first birthday). Please email Elizabeth with your child's name and date of birth.

Scouts meet on a Wednesday evening at 7pm. Cubs meet on Tuesday at 6.15pm and Beavers at 6pm on Thursday.

Beavers (ages 6-8) elizabeth.bush@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk

Cubs (ages 8-10½) steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk

Scouts (ages 10½ -14) marian.bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk

Swavesey Village College

Swavesey Village College
Adult Education Courses Spring 2023

Course	Start Date	End Date	Time	Weeks	Cost	Place	Day
Art & Crafts							
Watercolour Challenges	17/01/2023	14/03/2023	10.00-12.30	8	£105	PVH	Tuesday
Next Steps Crochet	19/01/2023	09/02/2023	19:00-21:00	4	£48	NSC	Thursday
Beginners Knitting	09/03/2023	30/03/2023	19:00-21:00	4	£48	NSC	Thursday
Mosaics for Improvers	23/02/2023	30/03/2022	19:00-21:00	6	£85	SVC	Thursday
Health & Wellbeing Classes							
Pilates	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	13:30-14:30	11	£85	BHV	Monday
Fitness Pilates	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	18:00-19.00	11	£85	SVC	Monday
Fitness Pilates	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	19:00-20:00	11	£85	SVC	Monday
Barre & Balance	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	20:00-21:00	11	£85	SVC	Monday
Fitness Pilates	12/01/2023	30/03/2023	18:00-19.00	11	£85	NSC	Thursday
Barre & Balance	12/01/2023	30/03/2023	19:00-20:00	11	£85	NSC	Thursday
Badminton Improvers	10/01/2023	28/03/2023	20:00-21:30	12	£96	SVC	Tuesday
Spring Foraging	07/03/2023	28/03/2023	19:00-21:00	4	£48	SVC	Tuesday
Tai Chi Beginners	10/01/2023	21/03/2023	19:00-20.00	10	£78	NSC	Tuesday
Tai Chi Beginners	11/01/2023	22/03/2023	19:00-20.00	10	£78	SVC	Wednesday
Beginners Squash	21/02/2023	28/03/2023	19.00-19.45	6	£36	SSC	Tuesday
General							
Photography Beginners	09/01/2023	06/02/2023	19:00-21:00	5	£56	SVC	Monday
Photography Creative Beginners	27/02/2023	27/03/2023	19:00-21:00	5	£56	SVC	Monday
Indian Take Away	22/02/2023	22/03/2023	19:00-21:00	5	£56	SVC	Wednesday
Language Courses							
Improve Your English	06/01/2023	10/02/2023	12:00-14:00	6	£60	BHV	Friday
Improve Your English	24/02/2023	31/03/2023	12:00-14:00	6	£60	BHV	Friday
Italian Beginners	11/01/2023	29/03/2023	16:45-18:00	11	£111	SVC	Wednesday
Italian Beginners Plus (Online)	12/01/2023	30/03/2023	18:30-20:00	11	£108	Online	Thursday
Italian Intermediate	11/01/2023	29/03/2023	18:00-19:30	11	£111	SVC	Wednesday
Italian Advanced Conversation	11/01/2023	29/03/2023	19:30-21:00	11	£111	SVC	Wednesday
Spanish Pure Beginners (Term 4)	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	18:00-19:30	11	£111	SVC	Monday
Spanish Beginners (Term 2)	09/01/2023	27/03/2023	19.30-21.00	11	£111	SVC	Monday
Holiday Spanish for Beginners (Term 1)	10/01/2023	28/03/2023	19.00-20.30	11	£111	SVC	Tuesday
Spanish Pure Beginners (Term 3)	11/01/2023	29/03/2023	18:00-19:30	11	£111	NSC	Wednesday
Spanish Beginners (Term 1)	11/01/2023	29/03/2023	19.30-21.00	11	£111	NSC	Wednesday

SVC	Swavesey Village College
NSC	Northstowe Secondary College
PVH	Papworth Village Hall
BHV	Bar Hill Village Hall
SSC	Swavesey Squash Club

For information and details about all our courses
Please call 01954 234488
Email: community@swaveseyvc.co.uk
www.swaveseyvc.co.uk/community-education

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News November/December 2022

County Council Highways

The Fen Drayton Road speed reduction & new buffer zone works encompassing the Folly Rd. estate entrance & the rear entrance to the village college should be completed by the time you read this edition of the magazine, as we were notified in December that the project would be completed between the 1st & the 21st of January. No doubt the diversions which were in place as a result of the necessary road closure would have caused the usual problems but we sincerely believe the improved safety element was very much required. The question remains as to WHY, when the existing village boundaries of rural villages are extended by such new developments, do the Highways team not INSIST that the cost of all necessary road safety improvements be paid by the developers and not the local residents?

The PC had to make a decision on next year's Local Highways Initiative bid in December on account of all applications being required to be in by January 6th. It was agreed that a funding bid be submitted for a major improvement to the School Lane/Thistle Green junction, there being many reasons for this including traffic calming, safer road crossing points, improving the safety aspect of journeys to & from the primary school and some additional yellow lining to (hopefully) make people think twice before parking on the junction.

The PC has also been notified of forthcoming section 106 monies for road improvements from Phase 1 of the Northstowe development for villages around Northstowe - watch this space.

The collection of speed and traffic counter data is on-going, together with discussions with the County highways to compile evidence to back up forthcoming traffic calming applications along with LHI funding bids.

District Council

The Judicial Review concerning the manner in which phases 3a & 3b of the Northstowe development were passed has been withdrawn by Fews Lane Consortium Ltd. The Joint Partnership have been awarded £10,000 in damages, the PC did support Fews Lane Consortium in this but did not get involved financially.

There has been an update on the licensing of street trading & food vans.

Planning

The PC commented on the planning details for access to the agricultural land between the Folly Rd. estate & the village college, this mainly concerned the original agricultural access gate alongside the rear entrance to the village college. It was agreed to request that a gate should be installed at the Fen Drayton Rd. end of the track and that for safety reasons it should be set into the site at sufficient distance to allow for machinery and any trailer to pull in off the road before stopping to open or close the gate for both safety & security

COUNCIL NEWS

reasons. The implementation of the post and rail fencing along the boundary of the track with the Public Open Space area is welcomed, however there is a need for wire netting to be installed along it for safety reasons and to stop direct access out onto Fen Drayton Rd.

Drainage

The PC has received no further information regarding the EA telemetry system being located at Webb's Hole sluice gates & pump.

Drains alongside the Recreation Green, School Lane and Station Rd. have been cut and cleared. The drain between the primary school pond and the entrance has also been cleared and Swan Pond has also had further machine clearing work carried out.

Other Business.

A virtual briefing meeting with a consultation on sustainable travel zone and new bus routes didn't provide much hope for a better bus route for our village, in fact if anything it would probably be worse & less sustainable for most of the residents other than those residing close to the Guided Busway. The above could maybe be enhanced by the new routing of the villages 5A service which now runs a circular route from the Longstanton Park & ride, down Ramper Rd. before turning right into the village, then going up through Over & into Willingham before turning right and back to the Park & ride. There are no buses doing the route in the opposite direction so 2 buses to reach Bar Hill!. Such a pity that all our shelters are on the opposite side of the road & are therefore now redundant. Furthermore once the new timetables were put into use it turns out that the proposed journey time of 30 minutes for a bus to complete this circular journey route is not possible!, The proposed time of 30 minutes should in fact be 45 minutes which has caused little short of absolute chaos for all users let alone the poor customers that have to use the additional bus to access Bar Hill !! I'm afraid it really proves what little knowledge Stagecoach have of the reality of traffic volumes and journey times in rural areas undergoing rather large developments - or maybe they just intended it to be used as an excuse for NOT supplying the service in the future.

The PC discussed the introduction of the possibility of a Swavesey Community Award scheme which received positive support so watch this space!

The clerk and 5 councillors met with Laragh Homes & the Hundred Houses Society to discuss a Housing Needs Survey. It was an impromptu discussion but we did agree that a Housing Needs Survey would be beneficial to the Parish and could be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council will work with Cambs ACRE to distribute the survey in the next month or and we would encourage all residents to please complete and return it.

The PC agreed the appointment of both the External & Internal Auditors for 2022/23.

Swavesey Annual Parish Meeting
Weds 12th April 2023
7.30pm, Swavesey Memorial Hall

Your opportunity to hear reports from and ask questions of the Parish Council, its committees, village charities, other village organisations and your County and District Councillors on items over the past year and for the forthcoming year.

Please do come along to the meeting to learn more about your village

Swavesey Parish Council

Swavesey Parish Council	**Website www.swavesey.org.uk**	
Parish Councillors	**Telephone (01954)**	**E-mail address**
Martin Johnston (Chairman)	200605	mjohnston@swavesey.org.uk
Doug Hunt (Vice-Chairman)	232478	dhunt@swavesey.org.uk
James Dodson	230560	jdodson@swavesey.org.uk
Colin Parsons	230861	cparsons@swavesey.org.uk
Sandie Smith	232356	ssmith@swavesey.org.uk
Warren Wright	203172	wwright@swavesey.org.uk
Jonathan Kerley	231304	jkerley@swavesey.org.uk
Rachel Vollerthun	07312 102526	rvollerthun@swavesey.org.uk
Alex Widger	07949 228580	awidger@swavesey.org.uk
Sue Rogers	0777 224 7673	srogers@swavesey.org.uk
Mandy Smith	230248	msmith@swavesey.org.uk
Clerk: Linda Miller	202982	clerk@swavesey.org.uk
District Councillor: Sue Ellington	202923	cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor: Mandy Smith Papworth & Swavesey Ward	230248	mandy.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Memorial Hall Administrator: Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk

Swavesey Parish Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month for Planning items and on the 4th Monday of each month for Full Council.

All meetings are held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. There is always a 10 minute public forum at the start of the meeting.

Answers to Selwyn's diabolical book titles puzzle on page 23

Served up pork pies with no strings attached (9)	Pinocchio
Adam backs me, Britain's foremost egg producer (6, 6)	Madame Bovary
Take in smooth, core values of infamous, lazy sponsor (8, 3, 7)	Swallows and Amazons
Cried hysterically after comedian Henry made tea with Lee (5, 4. 5)	Cider with Rosie
Indulge mistake, to an extent involving Bishop (5, 6)	Peter Rabbit
Throngs swirl about the lifeboat service (8, 6)	Northern Lights
In flouncy hat, I lolloped about (6)	Lolita
Employee slips, lands badly (7, 6)	Smiley's People
The period when church was embraced by state (3, 4, 7)	The Time Machine
Chase Ronnie, possibly, then go bad (very bad) – excuse annoyance (5, 6, 3, 3, 6, 2, 4)	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

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From Your DC - Sue Ellington

Hello Everybody

It only seems like yesterday I wrote the contribution for Christmas and the New Year Meridian when I was concerned about the Congestion Charging proposals. This concerns have not gone away but I am sure we will hear more in 2023. The cold snap has caused lots of concerns for energy costs and how everybody is coping with the increasing cost of living. I am encouraged to see how well the community is rising to the occasion with the Bethel church, St Andrew Church and Thistle Green Communities all taking positive action to help those who need it. Also The Parish Council has access to Galons Trust funds which can be used to help in an emergency.

I am delighted that South Cambs are using their housing organisations to develop a building to create seven single person flats for single men who are facing homelessness. Single men often do not have the same level of housing urgency as individuals with children. Also most available housing is for more than one person so this group can be sofa surfing or in bed and breakfast for long periods.

The District Council Refuse and Recycling service had a problem with bin collection during the cold period due to the road conditions in some of our smaller roads and the fact that the bin lids were frozen shut. They apologise for any inconvenience and will collect them on the next usual collection plus any side waste necessary.

The 4 day week six month experiment commences in January. This project will allow desk staff to do their usual work in 4 days instead of 5. The offices will still be open 5 days a week and teams will ensure their responsibilities are covered on all days. It is hoped that this will encourage staff recruitment but will be evaluated and reviewed in July.

There is a call for more families who are willing to provide a home for Ukrainian refugees as the original arrangements were for six months and many of these refugees need to move. If you can help, please contact the council.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New year and as usual I am available if you have any questions I can help with. Cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk. 07774146331 or 01954202923

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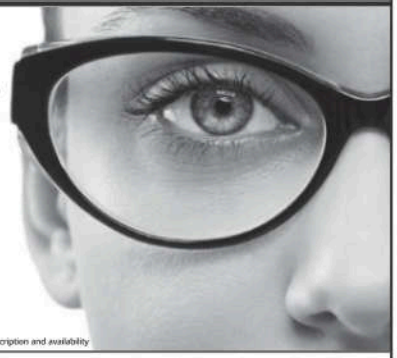

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Once there was a rich man who wanted to do something good for someone in his community. He spent a few days just travelling around his neighbourhood and the general vicinity. During his travels, he noticed the poor living conditions of a certain carpenter who lived nearby. So the rich man went to the carpenter and hired him to build a house.

"Now this isn't just any old house you'll be building," the rich man said to the carpenter. "I want you to build this house for a very special person. I want you to use only the finest building materials, hire the best workmen you can find, and spare no expense. I'm going to be out of town for a couple of months, and I would like to see the house finished when I return."

The carpenter saw this as a great opportunity to make some extra money. He skimped on building materials, hired cheap labour, paying as little as he could. He covered their mistakes with paint and plaster and cut corners at every opportunity.

When the rich man returned from his trip, the carpenter brought him the keys to the house and said, "I followed your instructions and built the house just as you told me to."

"I'm glad you did," the rich man said. Then he handed the keys back to carpenter saying, "The special person I wanted the house for is you. It's yours! You and your family can have it as my gift to you, and I'm sure you want to move in right away!"

It is a truism that we are often so consumed by our own self interest that we only ever give of our best if it suits us. I realise that this sounds quite harsh, but the facts as laid out for us in the story, are that regardless of our circumstances and our entrepreneurial spirit, we always look out for our own interests.

One doesn't have to look far nowadays to see the gap between the haves and have not's; the destructive commentary that issues from politicians, and the shoddy workmanship that talks a good game but fails to realise real benefits that society needs. This political philosophy of efficiency which is robbing our society of vocation has to be questioned and challenged; otherwise we will continue to develop a society of success seekers who will step on anyone to get to the perceived top.

In a world of constant change we cannot stand idly by and watch history take shape by the ideas of a few, we/all of us are here to make history.

How about this year determining to change our approach, how about being determined to use the very best of materials to build our life; emotionally, physically and spiritually. How about being determined to practice living as a steward putting the needs of others before our own? It is a tall order but a direction, I believe, that can change us and the community we belong to into a power for good, offering answers where 'they' (the political class) offer none. Let's connect this year and prove that society is more than just a collection of individuals.

Rev Bob Adams.
Bethel Baptist.

BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Club Vintage - Wednesdays 2-4pm

Club Vintage is designed to support older people and extends a special welcome to those with dementia and their carers. There is a small £3 weekly charge. Each week, members enjoy a rotating variety of activities such as chair-based exercise, singing, bible-based crafts, quizzes, games and entertainment from others.

Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm

Compass Café "Encompasses the community"

You will receive a very warm welcome at our community run cafe. Enjoy reasonably priced coffee, tea and homemade cakes.

LITTLE LIGHTS - Fridays 10am-12pm

All are welcome, bumps, babies, toddlers, parents and carers. There is no pressure, drop in at anytime for as long as you need. Only £2 per family, which includes cake and coffee for grown ups and drinks and a snack for the little ones! There are optional craft activities and singing as well. We hope you can come along and join us!

The Hub - Fridays 7-9pm

THE HUB

Our Friday night youth club! Open to all secondary aged children. Come along and meet up with friends, chat, play games, listen to music and much more! Snack bar also available. Parents must complete a permission form.

Sunday Services

You are warmly invited to join us at Bethel every Sunday morning from 10:45am for our weekly services followed by coffee in our compass room. The first Sunday of each month is an "all age" cafe style service. Our Communion service is held the 3rd Sunday of each month.

There is lots coming up this Easter at Bethel! Please watch out for details on upcoming events and services on our facebook page.

Easter dates 2023

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) - Tuesday 21st February
Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins) - Wednesday 22nd February
Palm Sunday - Sunday 2nd April
Maundy Thursday - Thursday 6th April
Good Friday - Friday 7th April
Easter Sunday 9th April

CONTACT US

Pastor Bob- pastorbob@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Sue Hope (Secretary) - secretary@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk
Marianne Holt (Youthworker) - marianne@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk *www.facebook.co.uk/SwaveseyBethel*

The Parish Church of St Andrew

Christingle Service November 29th 2022
It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to St Andrew's for our annual Christingle Service. The collection at the service raised £304.51 for The Children's Society, a charity founded in 1881 by Edward Rudolph when he saw the effects of poverty on the lives of the children of South London where he lived and worked. The ways in which the charity supports children and their families have changed over the last one hundred and forty years but it still aims to *"transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. It supports them through their most serious life challenges and campaigns tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most."* A big thank you to all of you who supported the charity through your donations at our Christingle service.

Snowdrop Walk: Date to be confirmed
Jeremy and Gillian Newsum of Priory House (the house next door to the church), have once again very kindly offered to open their gardens on behalf of the church for a Snowdrop Walk. The date of this event is impossible to predict so look out for information on our noticeboards, Facebook and online on the 5folds website. Refreshments will be served in church.

Services at St Andrew's
Ash Wednesday: February 22nd: 2pm: Holy Communion Service

Regular Services
We hold a service at St Andrew's every Sunday at 11am. For the first three Sundays of the month, this is a celebration of Holy Communion but on the fourth Sunday, we have a Morning Praise service which is less formal. When there is a fifth Sunday, we take part in a 5Folds benefice service at one of our benefice churches.

On the first Thursday of each month at 8pm, we have fifteen minutes of silence and prayer remembering the people of Ukraine followed by Compline (a short-sung service of night prayer). By tradition, people then leave in silence.

We would love to welcome you to any of our services.

If at any time, you feel that you would like to talk to one of our ministers, please ring either Rev'd Lucy Cleland (Team Vicar): 01954 277758 or Rev'd Simon Gill (Team Rector): 01954 230434.

The church is open daily between 9am and 4pm (or dusk, whichever is earlier).

If you have any queries about church services or about our events, please contact the churchwardens:
Nicky Carne: 01954 230971: nicky_carne@hotmail.com
Jacqui Fuller: 01954 230774: jacqui_fuller@hotmail.com

Community Groups & Charities

Swavesey Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	A voluntary group who meet on the first Monday each month to set out the vision for Swavesey and the planning policies needed to manage development according to the wishes of the local community. See http://www.swavesey.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/ or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk for more information
Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:- www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, e-mail enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk or check the website cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919). care-network.org.uk/
Community First Responder Scheme	The local group in Over and Swavesey has provided help over many hours and attended over 20 patients in your community. You can support the group and help to fundraise for equipment or volunteer to become a Community First Responder within your community. Contact:- responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk or call 01284 731802
Swavesey Library	A volunteer run community library based in Swavesey Village College. We are able to providing a full range of library facilities being directly linked to the Cambridgeshire County Council library service. For more info see:- www.swavesey.org.uk/village-link/swavesey-library
The Friends of the Rosie Hospital	The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. Contact:- Mrs Mary Sanders (Hon Chair) rosieinstitches@ukonline.co.uk Tel 01223 356615
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815134, email clare.bates@each.org.uk
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by DBS checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver

CLUB INFORMATION

Army Cadet Force	Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. Contact - Sgt Phill Barrett phone 07786981380
Swavesey Girlguiding	Unit / Evening / Contact 1st Swavesey Rainbows / Thursdays / caroline@overroad.co.uk 1st Swavesey Brownies / Mondays / swaveseybrownies@outlook.com 1st Swavesey Guides / Thursdays / swaveseyguides@gmail.com 1st Swavesey Rangers / Thursdays / swaveseyrangers@gmail.com
Swavesey Spartans	Swavesey Spartans are a Chartered Standard Youth Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club runs boys and girls teams from under 6 through to under 17. For information and enquiries please contact Chairperson - Mr Darren Bucknall 07872 681167 Secretary - Mr Simon Dawson 07886 215205 Club Welfare Officer - Carolyn Merricks on 01954 204972
1st Swavesey Scout Group	All sections meet at the Scout Hut on the SVC site **Beavers** Day: Thursday 18:00 to 19:15 Contact: Elizabeth Bush - Beaver Leader elizabeth.bush@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk **Cubs** Day: Tuesday 18:15 to 19:30 Contact: Steven Wilson - Cub Leader steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk **Scouts** Day: Wednesday 19:00 to 20:30 Contact : Marian Bentley - Scout Leader Marian.Bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk For any other enquiries please email info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre	Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre are based in their own purpose-built unit on the primary school site. It comprises Early Years children (aged from 2 years and 6 Months) between 9am and 3pm (formerly Swavesey Pre School) and we provide activities and care for primary school aged children before and after school. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 am to 9am and After School Club from 3.15pm to 6pm. For information please contact Carol Panther (Early Years and Playwork Manager) by email: eyandp@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk or by phone 01954 273312 Ext 2 or 07803 812221.
Swavesey Music School	Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College. For further details see: www.swaveseymusic.co.uk/
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in St Andrews Church, from 7.30pm - 9pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Julie Holmes julieholmes78@gmail.com Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk

Health and Wellbeing Club	A club for older adults which runs on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. The group meets at the Community Centre, Thistle Green, Swavesey from 10.00 to 11.30am. Refreshments, chair-based exercises, speakers and time for conversation. No booking is required and the group is Free.
British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Swavesey Tang Soo Do have classes on a Monday and Wednesday in the primary school main hall. Beginners and junior grades are 6pm-7pm and senior grades 7pm-8:15pm. The contact details are Mr and Mrs Morton 07919 050261 and enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk. The website is www.swaveseytsd.co.uk
Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Val Sage Tel 01954 230853
British Legion	For information contact:- Secretary - Angela Dye. 01954 277453. email: dyeangela0@gmail.com
Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre.The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams.Contact Helen Taylor on 01954 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net website: www.swaveseybadminton.net
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113) Email graham.waites566@btinternet.com
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring Simon Shore 01954 230848
Swavesey Squash Club	Swavesey Squash Club has three international standard squash courts, in our recently refurbished clubhouse, on the Swavesey Village College site. The club has a number of weekly sessions running, suitable for beginners, improvers, and more advanced players. Unlimited use of the facility from £17 a month. A welcoming and active community club with social events and opportunities for competition. Visit our website for more details or contact Ali Loke on 07776 176866/ali@alilokesquash.com. www.swaveseysquash.com
Swavesey & Over Cycling Club	We meet regularly throughout the year, with rides most weekends and also weekdays on spring and summer evenings. As a Cycling UK affiliated club our goal is to explore a joint passion for cycling in a safe, inclusive and social way. We aim to organise events throughout the year from day & weekend rides in the UK and long weekend trips in Europe. Contact: John Craven Email: socccommittee@gmail.com Facebook: https://bit.ly/3GJCksZ_SOCC or Website: https://swaveseyovercc.wixsite.com/socc

Over Netball Club	We train on a Tuesday night 7pm till 8.30pm on the outdoor courts at Swavesey Village College. Small friendly club, play in CDNL local league, beginners/ everyone welcome. Cost £3 per session. Contact is Lucy Parsons lucyparsons801@gmail.com. We train at Northstowe Secondary Academy on Tuesdays 7-8:30pm
Compass Cafe	Meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 until 12.00 at Bethel Baptist Church. Contact Sue Ellington on 01954 202923 or sue.ellington@virgin.net
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Global Resources Centre, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Institute Football Club	New players always welcome, please contact: Phil Baines on 01954 200377 [Saturday sides] or Jerry Ladell on (01954) 201018 [Veterans side].
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Church 9-30 to 11-30 am. Beginners always welcome. Contact Deborah Walker 01954231382 Email: deborahwalker105@talktalk.net
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Meet at Bethel Baptist Church, Middlewatch, Swavesey CB24 4RP commencing at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated. If you need a lift: PHONE: Trevor Grange - 01954 230119 or Pat Miles - 01954 780485. Guests Are Always Welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Club night 1 October to 1 April is on Monday, 7.00 to 9.00pm. From 1 April - 30 September there will be club nights on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We welcome new members from anywhere in the locality. Further information from s.taylor996@btinternet.com https://swaveseyovertennis.wixsite.com/sotc
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year. New members always welcome.Contact: Nathalie Balzano: nathaliewoodward@hotmail.com Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk
Swavesey Speakers	Develop your public speaking skills at this Toastmasters International club. Guests welcome! 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9pm (occasional venue change). More details: www.swaveseyspeakers.toastmastersclubs.org or call/text Faye on 07908 443610.
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Margaret Guest tel (01954)202757
Women's Walking	Women's Walking on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00AM. Meet on Market Street green. Walk for approximately one hour on pathways in and around Swavesey. A chance to exercise and chat. Reasonably robust footwear recommended. All welcome. Clare Fox 01954 202882

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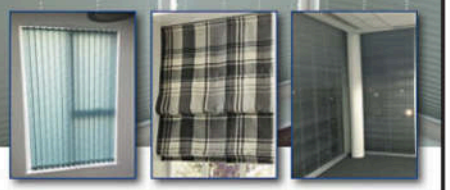

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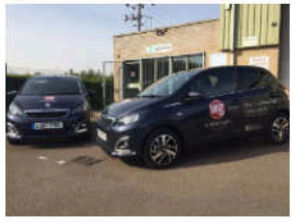

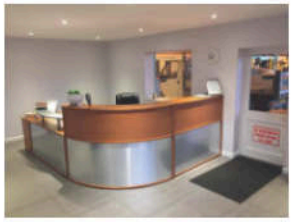

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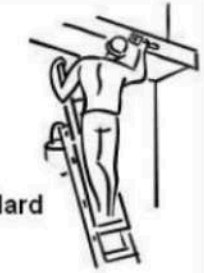

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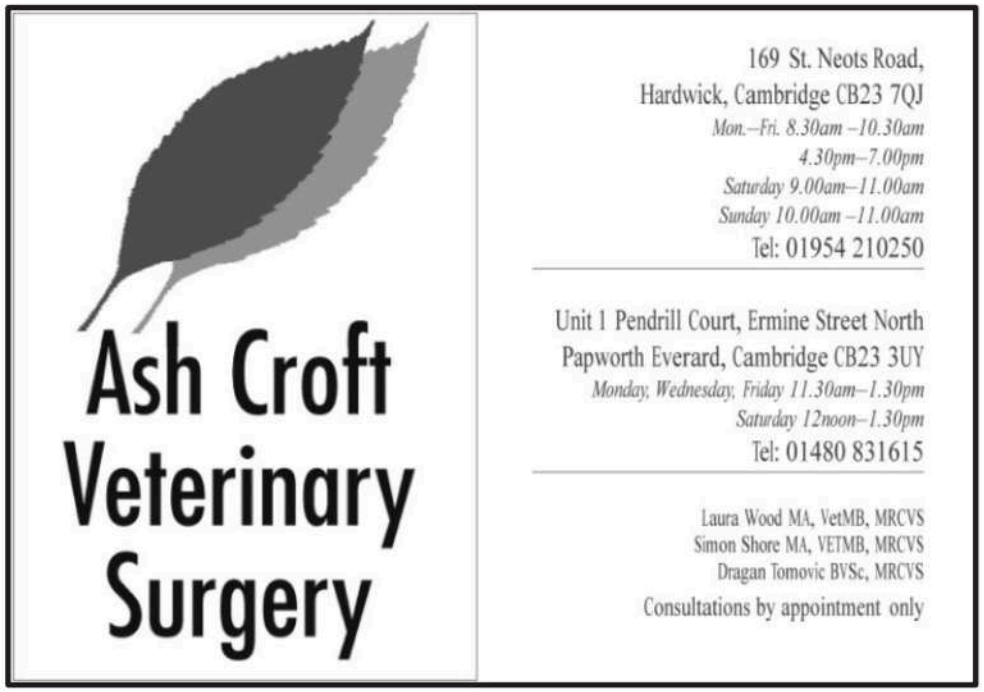
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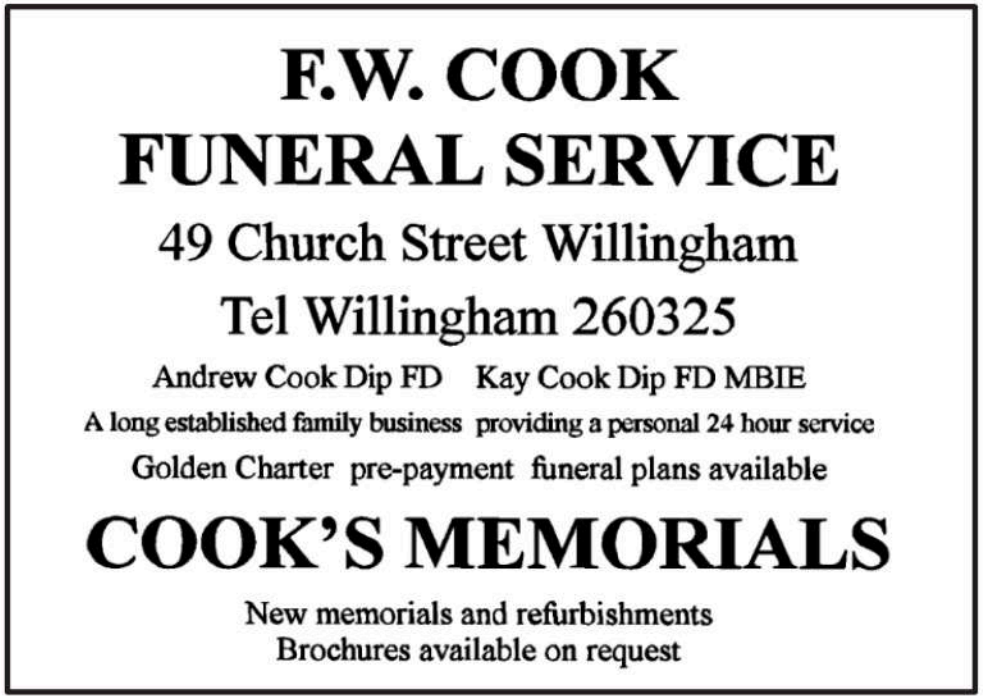
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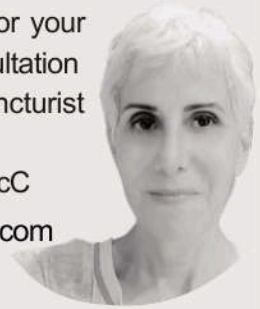

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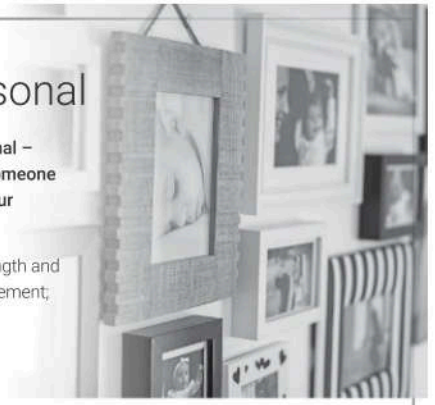

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Full page	£236	£314
Half page	£121	£174
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For all advertising details please contact:
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NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR EVENTS

Please use this form to notify us of any major events you are organising so that we can publish the dates in the magazine and on the website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

It is hoped this will avoid major events clashing on the same day. Please send to the Editor, 14 Black Horse Lane, Swavesey.

Event _____

Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or somebody that you know by announcing it in this magazine, please fill in the form below.

Also supply your name and contact details, and return to the Editor by the copy date.

We will endeavour to include it in our next issue.

SHORT MESSAGE:

_____

_____

_____

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